

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A mailing machine comprising:  
  
transport means for transporting mail pieces along a transport path;  
  
printing means for printing a postage indicia on the mail pieces transported by the transport means, the postage indicia including a barcode;  
  
print control means coupled to the printing means for controlling the printing means;  
  
reading means, located adjacent the transport path, for reading the barcode; and  
  
comparing means coupled to the print control means and to the reading means for comparing data read from the barcode by the reading means with data received by the comparing means from the print control means.
2. The mailing machine according to claim 1, wherein the comparing means is coupled to the transport means to halt operation of the transport means if the data read by the reading means does not match the data received by the comparing means from the print control means.
3. The mailing machine according to claim 1, wherein the reading means is operative to read at least one human-readable numeral from the postage indicia.
4. The mailing machine according to claim 3, wherein the comparing means is operative to compare data represented by the at least one human-readable numeral with data represented by the barcode.
5. A method of operating a mailing machine, the method comprising:  
  
transporting mail pieces along a transport path;  
  
printing a postage indicia on at least some of the mail pieces transported along the transport path, the postage indicia including a barcode;

reading the barcode by using a reader mounted on the mailing machine;  
receiving data from a postage security device (PSD); and  
comparing the data received from the PSD with data read from the barcode in the reading step.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

selectively halting the transporting of mail pieces in response to a result of the comparing step.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the transporting of the mail pieces is halted when the data read from the barcode does not match the data received from the PSD.

8. A mailing machine comprising:

transport means for transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing means for printing a postage indicia on the mail pieces transported by the transport means, the postage indicia including a barcode;

print control means coupled to the printing means for controlling the printing means;

reading means, located adjacent the transport path, for reading the barcode; and

verification means coupled to the reading means for receiving data read from the barcode by the reading means and for performing a verification function with respect to the received data.

9. The mailing machine according to claim 8, wherein the verification means is coupled to the transport means to halt operation of the transport means if the received data fails to satisfy the verification function.

10. The mailing machine according to claim 8, wherein the reading means is operative to read at least one human-readable numeral from the postage indicia, and the

verification function includes comparing the received data with data indicated by the at least one human-readable numeral.

11. A method of operating a mailing machine, the method comprising:

transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing a postage indicia on at least some of the mail pieces transported along the transport path, the postage indicia including a barcode;

reading the barcode by using a reader mounted on the mailing machine; and

performing a verification function with respect to data read from the barcode in the reading step.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

selectively halting the transporting of mail pieces in response to a result of performing the verification function.

13. A mailing machine comprising:

transport means for transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing means for printing a postage indicia on the mail pieces transported by the transport means, the postage indicia including a barcode and human-readable numerals that represent a postage amount;

print control means coupled to the printing means for controlling the printing means;

reading means, located adjacent the transport path, for reading the barcode and the human-readable numerals; and

comparing means coupled to the reading means for comparing a postage amount represented by data read from the barcode with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals.

14. The mailing machine according to claim 13, wherein the comparing means is coupled to the transport means to halt operation of the transport means if the postage amount represented by the data read from the barcode does not match the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals.

15. A method of operating a mailing machine, the method comprising:

transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing a postage indicia on at least some of the mail pieces transported along the transport path, the postage indicia including a barcode and human-readable numerals that represent a postage amount;

reading the barcode and the human-readable numerals by using a reader mounted on the mailing machine;

receiving data from a postage security device; and

comparing a postage amount represented by data read from the barcode with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

selectively halting the transporting of mail pieces in response to a result of the comparing step.